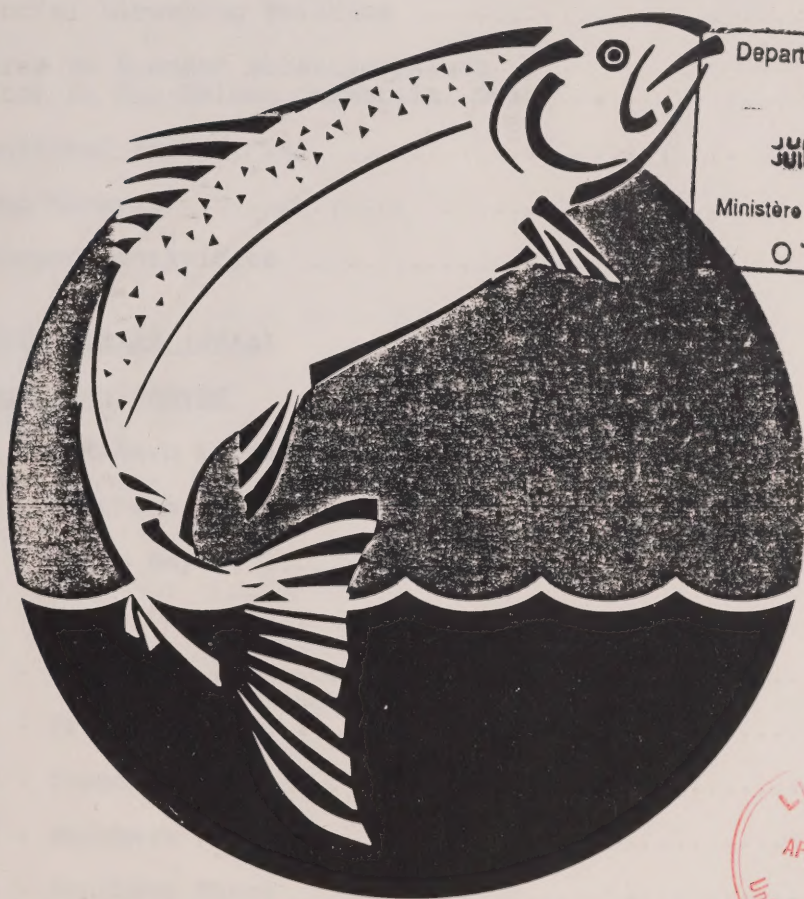


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1994 ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN



Department of Fisheries
& Oceans

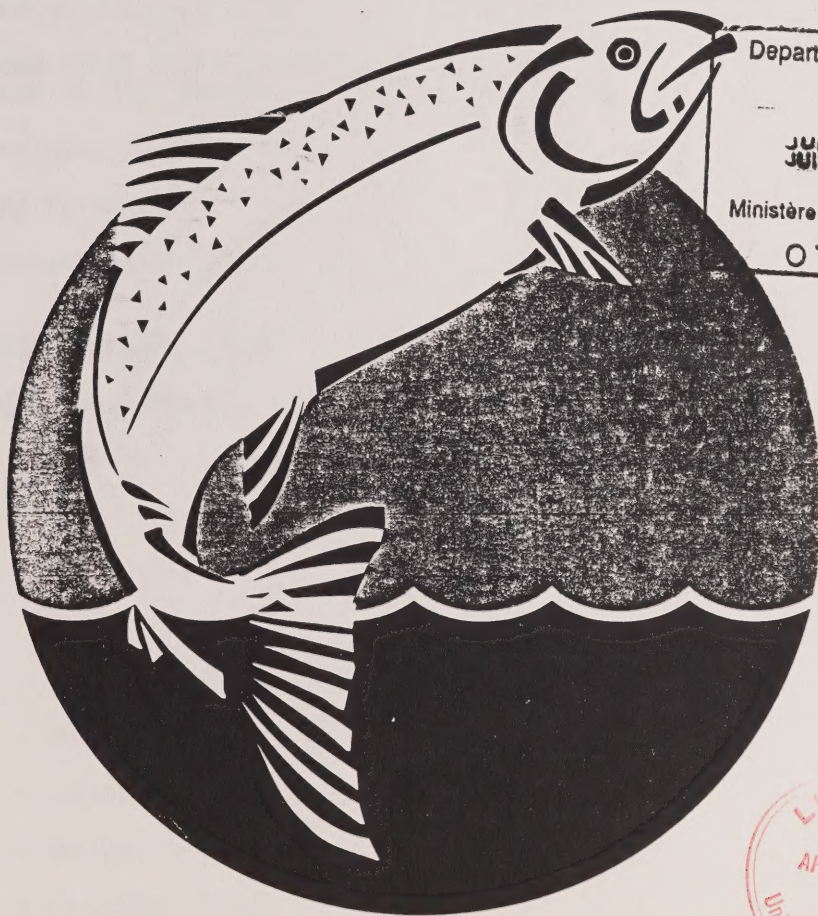
JUN 4 1994

Ministère des Pêches et des
Océans
OTTAWA



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1994 ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN



Department of Fisheries
& Oceans

JUN 4 1994

Ministère des Pêches et des
Océans
OTTAWA



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1994 ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 1994 Atlantic Salmon Management Plan is divided into major components. This permits easier reference to the appropriate measures applicable in each geographic region and Salmon Fishing Area (SFA). Descriptions and a map of the Salmon Fishing Areas are found in annexes 1 and 2.

The News Release of the plan is contained in the first section which is followed by sections on the principles and objectives which have been adopted, after consultation with all parties involved, for the management of the salmon fishery. The next section presents the major elements contained in the 1994 Atlantic Salmon Management Plan followed by the general policies and measures regarding closures, licensing, tagging, gear and enforcement in Gulf, Scotia-Fundy, and Newfoundland regions. Specific management initiatives and guidelines for particular Salmon Fishing Areas are also included.

1994 ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 1994 Atlantic Salmon Management Plan is guided by the principles adopted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) through consultations with the Atlantic Salmon Advisory Board and the provincial governments. It incorporates the three Regional Atlantic Salmon Management Plans which are developed in consultation with Regional and area representations from interested associations and organizations.

In the province of Quebec, the provincial government administers management plans for the salmon stocks in that province.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the 1994 management plan are to ensure that target spawning requirements are met in the Maritime provinces, and that spawning levels increase in Newfoundland and Labrador.

PRINCIPLES

1. Conservation of Atlantic salmon stocks remains the overriding priority in the management of this fishery. This priority includes measures aimed specifically at the large salmon component in order to increase spawning escapement.
2. The importance of fishing to Aboriginal communities is recognized and is given first priority after conservation. It is DFO policy to respect and honour the Aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes.
3. The Atlantic salmon fishery will be managed so as to distribute the benefits most effectively among the largest number of Canadians.
4. In the Maritime provinces, the importance of the recreational fishery is given greater recognition based on the relatively larger potential benefits to be generated. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the commercial fishery has traditionally been of greater importance. However, the recreational fishery offers considerable potential for economic benefits.
5. Allocation of Atlantic salmon stocks will be made by Salmon Fishing Area and/or river system and according to interests and/or dependence of user groups and that of industries and communities deriving benefit from the harvestable resource.

6. Interception of migrating salmon in mixed-stock fisheries will be minimized where practical and feasible, by adjusting seasons, gear and fishing area and the introduction of quotas.
7. Incidental catches of Atlantic salmon by commercial fishermen will be minimized by adjusting seasons, gear and area of fishing, and the retention of salmon caught under these circumstances will be illegal.
8. Access to Atlantic salmon stocks for commercial and recreational fisheries will be regulated by all or a combination of the following: seasons, quotas, gear and licensing restrictions. The Aboriginal Food Fishery will be in accordance with agreements made under the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy.
9. Atlantic salmon enhancement plans and habitat restoration initiatives will be developed and undertaken under the auspices of the five-year "Canada-Newfoundland Salmonid Conservation and Enhancement Cooperation Agreement" and recreational fisheries cooperation agreements with other Maritime Provinces.
10. Atlantic salmon habitat will be protected and improved to allow for maximum stock production.
11. The practice of tagging salmon catches will be maintained.

MAJOR ELEMENTS

1. The commercial salmon fishery for the Island portion of Newfoundland remains closed. 1994 is the third year of a five-year closure, which is a major part of the effort to rebuild depressed stocks of Atlantic salmon.
2. The 1992 program for the voluntary retirement of commercial salmon licences in the Province of Newfoundland and southern Labrador was very successful with 91 per cent of eligible licence holders applying for retirement. This included 96 per cent of the 2,572 commercial salmon fishermen in insular Newfoundland and 60 per cent of the 434 commercial salmon fishermen in southern Labrador.
3. In 1993, a similar program for the voluntary retirement of commercial salmon licences was introduced for fishermen in northern Labrador. This program was also successful with 71 per cent of the 145 eligible licence holders applying for retirement.

4. The commercial fishery in Labrador will remain open and the season will commence on June 5, 1994. In SFA 1, the allowance which was set at 80t in 1993, has been replaced by a quota which has been set at 24t to reflect the removal of effort as a result of commercial licence retirement. The quota for SFA 2 is reduced from the 1993 level to 60t to reflect the continued low abundance of salmon in that area. The quota for SFA 14B will remain at the 1993 level of 8t. The commercial quota for southern Labrador has dropped from 215t in 1991, 193t in 1992, 98t in 1993 to 68t in 1994.
5. The commercial salmon fisheries in the Maritime Provinces will remain closed. The 1992 commercial licence retirement program in New Brunswick resulted in the retirement of 38 of the remaining 50 licences. A similar offer may be made to the 43 licence holders remaining in Nova Scotia. Through funding, the Government of Canada also participated in the 1993-1994 retirement program for the 62 commercial salmon fishermen on the Upper and Middle North Shore of Quebec. 60 of the 62 licences have been retired thus far.
6. In 1994, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will continue zonal/river management in selected areas. This approach will be expanded to other areas of the Atlantic Provinces if evaluations of this management scheme reveal positive results. In New Brunswick, a new watershed management regime has been introduced which divides the province into five drainages: 1) Chaleur; 2) Miramichi; 3) South East; 4) Central & South West; and 5) Upper St. John.
7. Only full-time fishermen will be eligible to hold commercial salmon licences. In the future, fishermen who may be down-graded to the part-time categorization will have to regain their full-time categorization within two years in order to retain their eligibility to their commercial salmon licence. During this two-year period, fishermen down-graded to part-time will be eligible to hold their commercial salmon licence.
8. There will be no new commercial salmon fishing licences issued on an Atlantic-wide basis.
9. Transfers of commercial fishing licences will not be permitted in 1994.
10. Only the retention of grilse will be permitted in the recreational fisheries for the provinces of New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland (excluding Labrador). All large salmon (63 cm and greater in length) hooked by anglers will be required to be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish. The Province of Quebec will

maintain this restriction for the bordering rivers within the Restigouche system as has been done since 1984. In Labrador, the seasonal retention limit for large salmon has been reduced from 4 to 2 fish.

11. The recreational quotas for individual Salmon Fishing Areas in Newfoundland and Labrador have been eliminated. Bag limits have been reduced from 8 to 6 fish. On the Island portion of Newfoundland anglers may retain six small salmon under 63cm in length. This includes a maximum catch of three small fish prior to July 31 and three more this period. Once retention limits are reached, the fisheries remain open to catch and release fishing only.
12. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the daily retention limit is increased from 1 to 2 fish.
13. In all Atlantic Provinces, fishing limits such as seasons and quotas may be adjusted to reflect stock or environmental conditions.
14. The possession limits correspond to the seasonal retention limits in all the Maritime Provinces (7 in P.E.I. and 8 in the others). The daily retention limits in P.E.I., Nova Scotia and New Brunswick remain at their current level (1 in P.E.I. and 2 in the others).
15. Catch and release fishing is being encouraged. A daily catch and release limit of four salmon applies in the Atlantic Provinces. In the Maritime Provinces, anglers must stop fishing for salmon once they have retained the daily retention limit or released four salmon. In Newfoundland and Labrador, anglers must cease fishing when they have retained the daily retention limit and released four salmon.
16. During 1994, the tagging systems will be maintained in the Atlantic Provinces.
17. It will continue to be illegal to retain, or be in possession of, salmon captured incidentally in non-salmon commercial gear. Innovative low cost and efficient enforcement activities, such as River Watch, are being undertaken. Interest groups are assisting enforcement personnel in this regard.
18. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy announced in 1992 will contribute greatly to enhancing Atlantic salmon stocks. A total of 91 Agreements were entered into in the four

Atlantic provinces and Quebec. Projects in the agreements include the use of trap nets as an alternative to gill nets, river enhancement and stream clean-up projects, habitat restoration, counting fences, and Native guardian programs to implement and enforce the agreements.

19. Because of the success of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, Native Bands throughout the Atlantic have voluntarily improved fisheries management and conservation practices through programs which provide selective fishing methods and enhancement and habitat projects. Fishing activity by native people in general and gill netting specifically is minimal and greatly reduced from previous years. In 1993, DFO was successful in negotiating fishing plans with all 15 Bands in New Brunswick, the two Bands in Prince Edward Island, and 12 of the 14 Bands in Nova Scotia. Communal licences are being used to regulate the plans agreed to with the Bands and provide enforcement guidelines. Approximately 125 Guardians were employed by Native groups in the Atlantic to enforce the harvest plans.
20. During 1994 and under recreational fisheries cooperation agreements, salmon enhancement and habitat restoration activities have been and will be planned and established with the active participation of the Provinces and user groups.
21. The measures taken by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in 1994 are consistent with Canada's commitment to cooperate within the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). An agreement was reached at NASCO's annual meeting in 1993 for the establishment of quotas off West Greenland for the 1993-97 period. These quotas will be set based on scientific advice for conservation purposes. In 1994, Canada will seek implementation of measures at NASCO which will require the reporting of all Atlantic salmon harvests and work within NASCO for the elimination of high seas interceptions of Atlantic salmon.

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES

COMMERCIAL CLOSURES

Scotia-Fundy and Gulf Regions -- SFAs 15 to 23

The Maritimes commercial salmon fishery remains closed.

Newfoundland Region -- SFAs 1 to 14

The commercial salmon fishery for the Island of Newfoundland (SFAs 3 to 13 and 14A) remains closed in the third year of the five-year moratorium.

COMMERCIAL LICENSING POLICIES

Scotia-Fundy and Gulf Regions -- SFAs 15 to 23

1. As the commercial salmon fishery is closed in the Maritimes, 1994 licences will be issued for record purposes only and at no cost to those 1993 licence holders that wish to retain them.
2. Transfer of licences to another individual will not be permitted in 1994.
3. Licences are not available for new entrants in this fishery.
4. Licences are only valid for the Salmon Fishing Area specified.

Newfoundland Region -- SFAs 1, 2 and 14B

1. In 1994, licences may be issued to those persons who, in 1993:
 - a) held commercial fishing licences; and
 - b) were categorized as full-time; and
 - c) are full-time residents of the Salmon Fishing Area in which they are licensed or unless otherwise specified.

Note: Participation in the 1993 salmon fishery will not be a prerequisite to be eligible for a salmon licence in 1994. However, all fishermen will be required to renew their salmon fishing licences and meet the criteria outlined in c).

2. Licences are only valid for the Salmon Fishing Area specified.

3. Transfer of licences to another individual will not be permitted in 1994.
4. Effort limits for each licensed fisherman will remain at 200 fathoms per licence in 1994.
5. No new commercial salmon licences will be issued in 1994.

MEASURES TO PREVENT ATLANTIC SALMON BY-CATCH IN NON-SALMON COMMERCIAL GEAR

Note: In all Atlantic provinces, it will be illegal to retain or be in possession of Atlantic salmon caught by non-salmon commercial gear without authorization.

1. Non-salmon commercial fishing gear includes all traps, weirs and gillnets used to fish for all finfish species.
2. All salmon caught incidentally in the above gear must be released immediately to the water.
3. In areas where the by-catch of salmon is significant, the commercial gear shall be re-located voluntarily and/or as instructed by a fishery officer.

RECREATIONAL FISHERY

1. Size restrictions -- For the recreational fisheries Atlantic-wide (excluding Labrador and most of Quebec), the retention of large salmon will be prohibited (salmon 63 cm or greater in length). However, anglers will be permitted to hook and release large salmon.

Regions will continue media programs in cooperation with anglers' associations to ensure anglers are aware of proper release methods in order to ensure that the fish are released with the least possible harm. The use of barbless hooks is encouraged.

2. River quotas -- Quotas are established for individual rivers where there are definite spawning escapement concerns and requirements. After the river quota is taken, closures or a hook and release only fishery will be implemented.

3. Catch limits -- In 1994, the retention limits will be:

	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	Nfld. and Labrador*
Season	8	8	7	6
Possession	8	8	7	2 x daily limit
Daily	2	2	1	2

* In Labrador, anglers are allowed to retain 2 large salmon.

The daily and seasonal salmon retention limits do not include any salmon that are hooked and subsequently released. A daily catch and release limit of four salmon applies in the Atlantic Provinces. In the Maritime Provinces, anglers must stop fishing for salmon once they have retained the daily retention limit or released four salmon. In Newfoundland and Labrador, anglers must cease fishing when they have retained the daily retention limit and released four salmon.

Catch and release only fisheries may be implemented in areas requiring protection, but where conservation requirements do not demand total closure. Hook and release fisheries will be closed where water conditions or temperatures are likely to result in high mortality among released fish.

Catch limits which were previously restricted to lower levels because of specific conditions will be maintained as such.

In the Maritime Provinces, anglers exhausting their daily or seasonal limits will not be permitted to fish for Atlantic salmon for the remaining portion of the period associated with the limit reached.

4. Black salmon fishery -- The grilse only restriction will apply again in 1994. The season remains from April 15 to May 15 in New Brunswick.
5. Seasons -- The seasons remain the same as 1993 in many watersheds, with some adjustments to reflect local conditions. In some cases, the seasons may be altered to reflect further information or changing circumstances.

TAGGING PROGRAM

During 1994, the tagging systems will be maintained for the Atlantic salmon fisheries in Atlantic Canada.

Where tagging is required, salmon caught and retained by licensed salmon fishermen will be tagged by applying a self-locking, tamper-proof plastic tag through the mouth and gill cavity of the fish. Each tag number will be recorded with the licence number issued to the fisherman for immediate identification of all legally harvested salmon.

The tags will be colour coded for each fishery. The colour of tags in Newfoundland and Labrador will change so that only 3 of the tags will be valid up to July 31 while the remaining 3 tags will be valid for the remainder of the season.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Where feasible in 1994, emphasis will be placed on protection and conservation of Atlantic salmon in both the marine and freshwater environment. Particular attention will be directed to the following:

1. commercial salmon log record reporting (where applicable);
2. salmon by-catch restrictions;
3. poaching activity in inland waters;
4. fish habitat protection;
5. salmon tagging requirements;
6. strict observance of closed times and closed areas.

Programs will be in place again in 1994, or have already been established as part of the Crime Stoppers Program, to report suspected salmon poaching activities. Toll free numbers will be answered twenty-four hours a day. Consult your local Fisheries and Oceans office for details.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, all Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Wildlife officers have been designated as Fishery Officers to enhance overall surveillance effort. Other enforcement efforts include the use of volunteers in a "River Watch" program, joint enforcement patrols with other agencies and the use of specialized undercover enforcement teams during peak fishing periods.

DFO will continue to seek significant penalties through the courts for salmon violations and all successful prosecutions will be given media coverage. As well, the names of violators will be released.

SALMON FISHING AREASSFA 1 - NORTHERN LABRADORCommercial Fishery

Quota - 24t

WatersOpening/Closing Dates

All coastal waters from Cape
Chidley to Fish Cove Point

June 6 - October 15

Recreational Fishery

Individual quotas (Province-wide):

Season bag limit - 6 fish, of which only 2 can be large

Daily bag limit - 2 fish

Possession limit - 4 fish

Hook & release limit - 4 fish

SeasonsRiversOpening/Closing Dates

All rivers running into the coastal
waters between Cape Chidley and
Fish Cove Point

June 25 - September 18

SFA 2 - SOUTHERN LABRADORCommercial Fishery

Quota - 60t

WatersOpening/Closing Dates

All coastal waters from Fish Cove
Point to Table Head, St. Peter's
Bay

June 6 - October 15

Recreational Fishery

Individual quotas (Province-wide):

Season bag limit - 6 fish, of which only 2 can be large

Daily bag limit - 2 fish

Possession limit - 4 fish

Hook & release limit - 4 fish

SeasonsRiverOpening/Closing Dates

All rivers running into the coastal
waters between Fish Cove Point and
Table Head, St. Peter's Bay

June 25 - September 18

SFA 3 - WHITE BAYCommercial Fishery

<u>Waters</u>	<u>Opening/Closing Dates</u>
All coastal waters from Cape Bauld to Cape St. John	Closed

Recreational Fishery (Grilse only)

Individual quotas (Province-wide):

Season bag limit - 6 fish

Daily bag limit - 2 fish

Possession limit - 4 fish

Hook & release limit - 4 fish

Seasons

<u>River</u>	<u>Opening/Closing Dates</u>
All rivers running into the coastal waters between Cape Bauld and Cape St. John	June 18 - September 5

SFA 4 - NOTRE DAME BAYCommercial Fishery

<u>Waters</u>	<u>Opening/Closing Dates</u>
All coastal waters from Cape St. John to Cape Freels	Closed

Recreational Fishery (Grilse only)

Individual quotas (Province-wide):

- Season bag limit - 6 fish
- Daily bag limit - 2 fish
- Possession limit - 4 fish
- Hook & release limit - 4 fish

Seasons

<u>River</u>	<u>Opening/Closing Dates</u>
All rivers running into the coastal waters between Cape St. John and Cape Freels with the exception of the following:	June 18 - September 5
Indian River, including Burnt Berry Brook	June 18 - August 28
Exploits River and its tributaries	June 18 - August 28

SFA 5 - BONAVIDA BAYCommercial Fishery

<u>Waters</u>	<u>Opening/Closing Dates</u>
All coastal waters from Cape Freels to Cape Bonavista	Closed

Recreational Fishery (Grilse only)

Individual quotas (Province-wide):

Season bag limit - 6 fish

Daily bag limit - 2 fish

Possession limit - 4 fish

Hook & release limit - 4 fish

Seasons

<u>River</u>	<u>Opening/Closing Dates</u>
All rivers running into the coastal waters between Cape Freels and Cape Bonavista with the exception of the following:	June 18 - September 5
Terra Nova River	June 18 - August 28

SFA 6 - TRINITY BAYCommercial FisheryWatersOpening/Closing Dates

All coastal waters from Cape
Bonavista to Grates Point

Closed

Recreational Fishery (Grilse only)

Individual quotas (Province-wide):

Season bag limit - 6 fish

Daily bag limit - 2 fish

Possession limit - 4 fish

Hook & release limit - 4 fish

SeasonsRiverOpening/Closing Dates

All rivers running into the coastal
waters between Cape Bonavista and
Grates Point

June 18 - September 5

